

# News release



Ministry of Labour  
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## LABOUR MINISTER WRYE ISSUES GROUND CONTROL REPORT

SUDBURY -- Ontario Labour Minister William Wrye today made public the report of The Provincial Inquiry into Ground Control and Emergency Preparedness in Ontario Mines.

The labour/management/government inquiry was established in October, 1984 subsequent to the tragic rockburst in Falconbridge # 5 shaft. The committee was to report on appropriate changes regarding ground control and emergency preparedness systems in the mining industry.

Mr. Wrye said today that "the report is a comprehensive one. Its 60 recommendations are forthright and far-reaching. I can tell you without equivocation, that the government of Ontario through my ministry, fully intends to accept it and act upon it."

"To illustrate the Ministry's commitment to this area, I am pleased to announce that an agreement has just been signed between the government of Ontario, the government of Canada and the government of the United States of America under which we shall jointly cooperate in a program of research in rock mechanics and ground control. Taking effect one week from today, this agreement will involve the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology and the Ontario Ministry of Labour", the Minister said.

The committee was chaired by Trevor Stevenson of the Industrial Relations Division of the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

Its members have been Bruce Campbell, Ontario Mining Association; Peter Curtis, Canadian Base Metal Workers Union (C.N.T.U.); Simon Guillet, United Steel Workers of America; Rick Briggs, Mine, Mill and Smelter Union; Dave Mellor, United Steel Workers of America; Stan Bharti, Falconbridge

Nickel Mines Ltd.; Stewart Reid, Campbell Red Lake Mines Ltd.; and, Milt Jowsey, consultant in mining and mine training.

The inquiry spent a total of 46 days conducting public hearings in mining communities throughout Ontario and visited fifteen mines. The committee received a total of 48 briefs and communications from interested parties.

In closing Mr. Wrye thanked all parties that took part in the inquiry. He especially singled out the contribution of the Government of Canada for sharing one third of the costs and providing the expertise of the staff of the Canada Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology.





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# NEWS RELEASE

400 University Avenue

Toronto M7A 1T7

(416) 965-7941

Release No.: 89-27

Date: Sept. 28, 1989

Contact: Dr. Ann E. Robinson

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## GREEN PAPER ON BIOTECHNOLOGY TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION ON HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

TORONTO -- A Green Paper on Biotechnology in Ontario was issued today for public discussion by Ontario Labour Minister Gerry Phillips and Monte Kwinter, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology.

Biotechnology is the use of living organisms to produce goods and services.

"There has been a significant increase in recent years in the use of biotechnological processes in such fields as health, energy and food and agriculture. This raises certain issues. These include the implications for health and safety and the effect that biotechnological processes might have on the environment," Mr. Phillips said.

"The purpose of the Green Paper is to inform people about these issues and stimulate public discussion on how the government should address them. The government must assure that peoples' health and safety, and that of the environment, are protected. At the same time, the government wants to encourage the industry to grow."

Applications of biotechnology have resulted in new drugs such as growth hormones, and in new ways of producing existing drugs, such as insulin. They have also resulted in agricultural improvements such as pest-resistant crops, new pesticides and higher-producing dairy cattle; in faster sewage treatment processes; and in more efficient methods of recovering minerals from ore.

"As biotechnological processes become more widespread and more widely used, there may be implications for public health and safety, particularly in the workplace," Mr. Phillips said.

"From 1986 to 1988, the number of Canadian companies involved in biotechnological research has doubled. There are now at least 218 such companies. And the greatest concentration of the industry is here in Ontario -- almost half of those companies are located in this province," said Mr. Kwinter.

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The Green Paper looks at the issues the emerging technology has raised and presents options for future legislation and controls.

"The government's aim in issuing the Green Paper is to inform people about these issues and ask for public input. We want ideas to help us develop policies in a timely, sensitive, thoughtful manner. This will ensure that the industry can develop with appropriate rules already in place to protect human health and the environment," Mr. Phillips said.

The Green Paper was produced by a committee which was formed in July 1988. The Ministry of Labour was the lead ministry in developing the paper, with participation from the Ministries of Agriculture and Food; Environment; Health; Industry, Trade and Technology; Natural Resources; and Treasury and Economics. The committee was also assisted by an external advisory group with experience in various applications of biotechnology. The group included representatives of the federal government, labour, management, academics and environmentalists.

The Green Paper is available from the Ministry of Labour. The public is invited to submit comments in writing to the committee by December 8, 1989. Interested individuals or groups may also request a public meeting with the committee. These requests should be made before October 20, 1989. Depending on demand, meetings will be held across the province in November.

"All this public comment will result in an understanding of the policies -- or laws -- or both -- that are needed. With clearly defined rules in place, Ontario will be in a position to encourage investment and innovation in biotechnology," Mr. Phillips said.

Comments can be sent to the:

Biotechnology Green Paper Project  
Ontario Ministry of Labour  
400 University Avenue  
8th floor  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1T7



400 University Avenue

Toronto M7A 1T7

(416) 965-7941

Background No.: 89-07

Date: Sept. 28, 1989

Contact: Dr. A. E. Robinson

## BIOTECHNOLOGY GREEN PAPER Questions & Answers

### 1. What is biotechnology?

The term "biotechnology" refers to a broad range of activities in which science and engineering are applied to the use of living organisms to provide some human benefit. Traditional examples are the making of cheese, yoghurt, beer and wine, the selective breeding of plants and animals, and more recently the production of antibiotics.

In the last twenty years, developments in the science of molecular genetics have resulted in a quantum leap in man's ability to alter living organisms. These developments are popularly known as genetic engineering. As a result biotechnology is expected to have a dramatic impact on the forest products, agriculture, food, health-care, and chemical industries. In fact, biotechnology has been called not an industry but a revolution.

### 2. What are the potential risks of biotechnology?

Biotechnology refers to such a broad range of activities that it is difficult to make generalizations. Unlike inanimate chemical substances, living organisms can multiply in the environment. Therefore, there is a need to establish that no harm will follow from their release.

### 3. Why is biotechnology receiving this attention now?

In recent years new biotechnological capabilities have begun to emerge from research laboratories. It is expected that this research will be applied broadly across numerous industrial sectors. Between 1986 and 1988, the number of Canadian companies involved in biotechnological research doubled to 218.



**4. Are workers not now protected under the Occupational Health and Safety Act?**

There are general duty provisions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act which provide general protection. Additional measures may be needed to address the newer developments of biotechnology.

**5. Isn't regulatory action likely to discourage developments in biotechnology?**

No, industry has indicated that it wants regulation. Industry can only benefit from a defined and stable regulatory framework.

**6. Doesn't much of biotechnology really consist of "meddling with nature", and as such, isn't it inherently unpredictable and dangerous?**

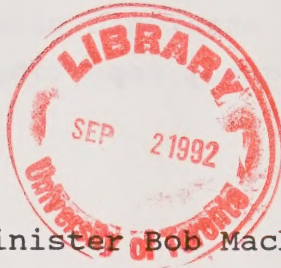
Biotechnology may be "meddling with nature" but in that respect it is no different from many of man's other activities, from flying aircraft to quadruple bypass heart surgery. There is always potential risk in any human enterprise that seeks to explore new frontiers. What we are doing here is to promote dialogue so that we may seek to minimize potential risk by regulating sensibly and effectively.



Ontario  
Ministry of  
Labour

# NEWS RELEASE

September 1, 1992



## CHANGES TO MINISTRY OF LABOUR'S INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DIVISION

**TORONTO --** Labour Minister Bob Mackenzie announced today the establishment of Labour-Management Services (LMS) and the appointment of Vic Pathe as Deputy Minister of the services.

In his new position, Mr. Pathe, formerly Special Advisor to the government on Labour-Management Relations, will report directly to the Minister of Labour.

Labour-Management Services will be responsible for mediation, preventive mediation, grievance mediation, arbitration and collective bargaining information -- activities previously carried out by the Industrial Relations Division of the Ministry of Labour.

"Under the direction and leadership of Mr. Pathe, LMS will respond directly to the needs of the labour-management community," the Minister said. "The changes will reinforce the neutrality of Labour-Management Services and keep Ontario at the forefront in the areas of labour-management cooperation, dispute resolution and the provision of collective bargaining information."

Mr. Pathe said: "Ontario's workplaces are facing major challenges which will require greater workplace co-operation. Our task is to provide the necessary assistance to bring this about."

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The Ministry will continue to be responsible for the development and implementation of long-term strategic planning and compliance with the government's central agency reporting requirements as they apply to LMS.

Contact: Bob McClelland  
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